

APPROVED

3/13/2023

**February 13, 2023
Town of Taghkanic
Town Board Meeting**

Note all documents in these minutes may be clicked on and enlarged for easier reading

Town Board Members audited and signed vouchers on January 10, thru 13, 2023 separately, due to the COVID-19 social distancing.

7 pm The Taghkanic Town Board held its Regular monthly meeting on the above date with a combination of Supervisor Skoda, Board Members, Town Clerk, 10 residents at the Taghkanic Town Hall and 9 residents attending via Zoom. **Supervisor Ryan Skoda** opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence.

| | | | |
|-----------------|------------------|------------------------|-------------|
| Present: | Ryan Skoda | Supervisor | |
| | Elisabeth Albert | Board Member | |
| | Elizabeth Craig | Board Member | |
| | Kara Gilmore | Board Member | ZOOM |
| | Linda Mirabelli | Board Member | |
| | Cheryl Rogers | Clerk | |
| | Robert Burns | Highway Superintendent | |

Guest Speaker:

Supervisor Ryan Skoda then asked for a motion to approve the following minutes:

January 9, 2023 Organizational: Town Board January 9, 2023 Organizational Draft meeting minutes were accepted as written on a motion by **Board Member Elisabeth Albert** seconded by **Board Member Linda Mirabelli**.

Approved 4 Aye (Ryan, Elisabeth, Kara, Linda)
0 Nays
1 Absent (Elisabeth)

January 9, 2023: Town Board Regular meeting minutes were accepted as written on a motion by **Board Member Elisabeth Albert** seconded by **Board Member Linda Mirabelli**.

Approved 4 Aye (Ryan, Elisabeth, Kara, Linda)
0 Nays
1 Absent (Elisabeth)

January 13, 2022: Town Board Auditing of Books CFO, Clerk, and Collector Draft meeting minutes were accepted as written on a motion by **Board Member Elisabeth Albert** seconded by **Board Member Linda Mirabelli**.

Approved 4 Aye (Ryan, Elisabeth, Kara, Linda)
0 Nays
1 Absent (Elisabeth)

January 16, 2023: Town Board STR and Zoning Review meeting minutes were accepted as written on a motion by **Board Member Elisabeth Albert** seconded by **Board Member Linda Mirabelli**.

Approved **4 Aye** **(Ryan, Elisabeth, Kara, Linda)**
 0 Nays
 1 Absent **(Elisabeth)**

The Correspondence:

1. The Columbia County Office for the Aging SENIOR SCOOP
2. KISS dates March 13 –March 24, 2023
3. Legal Corner, tax exemption for volunteer Firefighters
4. Columbia County DOH 2023 Rabies Clinics
5. Stawnychy overview of LOSAP
6. Penflex
7. GTel transfer to Hilltop Communications
8. Teal, Becker, Charamonte, CPAs, PC LOSAP 2021 annual audit
9. Gayle Sudder, Transportation Analyst, NYS Department of Transportation

Reports from the Boards:

Animal Control: Kyle Miller, report submitted as follows

I have one entry for this past month:

1/27 - Loose brown and white border collie mix and tan border collie mix spotted on the Taconic State Parkway/Post Hill Rd. intersection. The brown and white one was caught by a passing motorist while the other dog kept going. The first dog was then brought to CGHS where it was redeemed a short while later.

ZBA: James Romaine, Chair, no report.

Planning Board: Katherine Bainer, Chair no report submitted.

Assessor: Craig Surprise report submitted.

ZEO/CEO/Building Inspector: Dennis Callahan report submitted.

Historian: Nancy Griffith, no report submitted.

Traffic Safety Board: Board Member Linda Swartz, report submitted as follows

The Columbia County Traffic Safety Board met at the Public Safety Building in Hudson on Thursday, January 26, 2023.

Chairman Henry Swartz presented outgoing Chairman Fred Schultz with Certificates of Recognition from the County Board of Supervisors and from the Traffic Safety Board. The TSB welcomed the new Executive Secretary, John Gallo as well as the new NYSDOT Resident Engineer Tina Crowley, and Sgt. Wayne Oles from the NY State Police who is replacing Sgt. Paul Strobel.

Columbia County Highway Department Updates:

The County Highway Department advises that construction is expected to begin on CR 18 (Fish & Game Road) in Claverack this Spring. There is also a multi-bridge repair contract for a number of bridges throughout the county.

Bells Pond Intersection, Livingston:

Lee Zimmer and Moe Islam from the NYSDOT Traffic Engineering and Safety Unit in Poughkeepsie were in attendance to answer questions and discuss solutions regarding the Bells Pond intersection in Livingston. Four state highways converge at this wide intersection, all having a 55 mph speed limit. County DPW Commissioner Ray Jurkowski and Livingston Supervisor Jim Guzzi and Deputy Supervisor Will Yandik were also present.

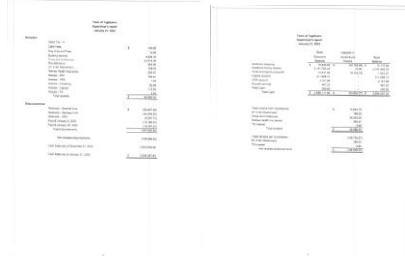
Livingston Fire Chief Joey Jahns cited a number of accidents going back to 2018, the outdated traffic signal system, and the recent and expected additional development at the intersection, with the resultant increase in traffic. Livingston Supervisor Jim Guzzi noted that this intersection is in the C-1 (commercial) zoning district of Livingston and they would like to see a lower speed limit at the intersection. Mr. Zimmer said that without continuous enforcement, a lower speed is not recommended.

Mr. Zimmer said that DOT has studied the data and is planning to install a “full protect” green and yellow arrow signal and might consider adding the red arrow as well. They will also look at the directional signs and the alignment of the traffic signal.

Mr. Zimmer said that if DOT crews can do the work, it could be done in a few weeks. If it has to go to a contractor, it will take more time. If the new signals don’t take care of the problems, DOT will look for some other solution. Town of Livingston and TSB will keep DOT informed.

The next meeting of the Columbia County Traffic Safety Board is scheduled for March 23, 2023.

- Environmental Management Council:** *Robert Brush* no report submitted:
- Office for the Aging:** *Joyce Thompson*, no meeting to report.
- Clerk/Collector:** *Cheryl Rogers*, reports were submitted to the Board.
- Supervisor:** *Ryan Skoda*, report submitted as attached.



Highway: *Roberts Burns*, report submitted as follows:



- ✚ **Metal Collection:** *Highway Superintendent Rob Burns:* Highway Department will take metal that can be placed in the metal dumpster Rob just asks that you please email him before coming.
- ✚ **Town Wide Cleanup Day:** the Highway Department is having a cleanup day May 13, 2023 from 8am to 2pm.

Advisory Board reports:

Financial Advisory Committee Report: *Board Member Joyce Thompson* report submitted as follows: Met no issues found

Two Budget Amendments needed as follows.

Board Member Linda Mirabelli motioned to approve Budget Amendment #14-2022 as presented, seconded by *Board Member Elisabeth Albert* as follows:

Approved **4 Aye** (*Ryan, Elisabeth, Kara, Linda*)
 0 Nays
 1 Absent (*Elizabeth*)

| | | | | |
|-------------------|----------|---------------------------|----------|----------|
| Town of Taghkanic | | | | |
| | 1-Feb-23 | Budget Amendment #14-2022 | | |
| | | | Increase | Decrease |
| | | | | |

| | | | | |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| GENERAL | | | | |
| | WEB SUPPORT | A1410.41 | 77.76 | |
| | TGAZETTE | A1410.42 | | 77.76 |
| | | | | |
| | BUILDINGS CONTRACTUAL | A1620.4 | 648.25 | |
| | CONTINGENCY | A1990.4 | | 648.25 |
| | | | | |
| | | | 726.01 | 726.01 |
| | | | | |
| HIGHWAY | | | | |
| | BRUSH & WEED CONT | DA5140.4 | 816.48 | |
| | MACHINERY | DA5130.4 | | 816.48 |
| | | | | |
| | SNOW REMOVAL CONTRACTUAL | DA5142.4 | 5,524.81 | |
| | GENERAL REPAIR CONTRACTUAL | DA5110.4 | | 5,524.81 |
| | | | | |
| | | | 6,341.29 | 6,341.29 |

Board Member Elisabeth Albert motioned to approve Budget Amendment #15-2022 as presented, seconded by *Board Member Linda Mirabelli* as follows:

Approved *4 Aye* (*Ryan, Elisabeth, Kara, Linda*)
0 Nays
1 Absent (*Elisabeth*)

| | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Town of Taghkanic | | 2022 PAYABLES | | |
| | 13-Feb-23 | Budget Amendment #15-2022 | | |
| | | | Increase | Decrease |
| | | | | |
| GENERAL | | | | |
| | ASSESSOR LITIGATION | A1355.411 | 6,352.48 | |
| | BUILDINGS LITIGATION | A3620.41 | | 6,352.48 |
| | | | | |
| | | | 6,352.48 | 6,352.48 |

Conservation Advisory Committee: *Tony LaSalvia* no meeting to report:

Climate Smart Community: *Larry Kadish*

Present were Joyce Thompson, David Koehler, Peter Paden, Bob Brush, Jean Feinberg, Perry Ascher, Betsy Albert, Tim Kinnelty, Doug Craig, and Larry Kadish.

Special Guest, James Buono, from National Grid, spoke about a program to reduce our monthly bills for Town Hall and Highway Dept. Mr. Buono will submit a proposal to Betsy Albert.

The minutes of the 1 Dec meeting were accepted as read.

The submission for the Climate Smart Community was completed Jan 4th, 2 days before the deadline. special thanks to Audrey, Lindsey, and Doug (for his computer skills). And kudos for the entire Task Force for its work in completing this complex project.

Discussion/prep for the Jan 14th session on "your Own National Park" program was done. Much discussion re follow up lectures and applications took place.

Peter Paden suggested merging the CAC and Task Force meetings as there are overlapping members and purposes. Further consideration of this suggestion will take place.

The first meeting of the Climate Adaption and Resiliency Planning effort will be held (zoom) next week. Larry Kadish will try to attend.

A request to apply for a summer student in a Boston College internship program was deferred to the Land Conservancy, which may be better positioned to deal with a summer intern.

Larry Kadish asked the committee to select a new chair. Doug Craig was the unanimous choice.

The next meeting will be Thursday 23 Feb at Town Hall.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 PM.

Digital Communication Advisory Committee: *Joyce Thompson and Nadja Palenzuela*

Old Business:

1. **Land Off Route 82:** *Supervisor Ryan Skoda received* a call from the appraiser informing me that one of the parcels we were interested in is sold with a closing date late in January. I called the parcel owner and he confirmed the sale. There are two parcels left but one is on the south side of the driveway and the other on the north side, not attached. So back to the drawing board.

✚ Joyce Thompson: what about putting a blurb on the website or Tgazette looking for property for a new town hall.

✚ All agreed.

2. **Fire District/Fire Protection:** *Supervisor Ryan Skoda:* 35 day window of the posting for lead agency is over Attorney Howard received no objections, the Town is Lead Agency. Attorney Howard has drafted Resolution 9 setting a Public Hearing on the proposed creation of the Taghkanic Fire District and dissolution of Taghkanic Fire Protection District # 1 and Taghkanic Fire Protection District # 2. ***Board Member Linda Mirabelli*** motioned to approve Resolution # 9 – 2-23 to setting a Public Hearing, seconded by ***Board Member Elisabeth Albert.***

Approved 4 Aye (*Ryan, Elisabeth, Kara, Linda*)

0 Nays

1 Absent (*Elisabeth*)

3. **Zoning Law Review:**

February 20, 2023 6:30 PM Zoning review

4. **Auditing Books CFO, (2) Justice, Collector, Clerk:**

March 9, 2023 at 11 am.

New Business:

A. April 2023 Calendar: *Board Member Linda Mirabelli* motioned to accept the April 2023 calendar with the change of the Town Board Meeting moved to the first Monday of April, seconded by *Board Member Elisabeth Albert*.

Approved **4 Aye** (*Ryan, Elisabeth, Kara, Linda*)
 0 Nays
 1 Absent (*Elizabeth*)

The bills were audited and approved for payment as follows:

+ January 23, 2023 (2022 Payables) Abstract: on a motion by *Board Member Elisabeth Albert*, was approved for payment, seconded by *Board Member Linda Mirabelli*.

| | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|---|-----|---|-----|----|-----------|
| 2021 General Fund Vouchers | # | 471 | - | 479 | \$ | 16,296.26 |
| 2021 Highway Fund Vouchers | # | 192 | - | 197 | \$ | 6,753.96 |

Approved **4 Aye** (*Ryan, Elisabeth, Kara, Linda*)
 0 Nays
 1 Absent (*Elizabeth*)

+ January 23, 2023 Abstract: on a motion by *Board Member Elisabeth Albert*, was approved for payment, seconded by *Board Member Linda Mirabelli*.

| | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|---|---|---|----|----|-----------|
| 2023 General Fund Vouchers | # | 1 | - | 17 | \$ | 36,772.70 |
| 2023 Highway Fund Vouchers | # | 1 | - | | \$ | 12,529.85 |

Approved **4 Aye** (*Ryan, Elisabeth, Kara, Linda*)
 0 Nays
 1 Absent (*Elizabeth*)

+ February 13, 2023 (2022 Payables) Abstract: on a motion by *Board Member Elisabeth Albert*, was approved for payment, seconded by *Board Member Linda Mirabelli*.

| | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|---|---|---|----|----|-----------|
| 2023 General Fund Vouchers | # | 1 | - | 17 | \$ | 36,772.70 |
| 2023 Highway Fund Vouchers | # | 1 | - | | \$ | 12,529.85 |

Approved **4 Aye** (*Ryan, Elisabeth, Kara, Linda*)
 0 Nays
 1 Absent (*Elizabeth*)

+ February 13, 2023 Abstract: on a motion by *Board Member Elisabeth Albert*, was approved for payment, seconded by *Board Member Linda Mirabelli*.

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|----------------------------|---|---|---|----|----|-----------|
| 2023 General Fund Vouchers | # | 1 | - | 17 | \$ | 36,772.70 |
| 2023 Highway Fund Vouchers | # | 1 | - | | \$ | 12,529.85 |

Approved **4 Aye** (*Ryan, Elisabeth, Kara, Linda*)
 0 Nays
 1 Absent (*Elizabeth*)

+ February 13, 2023 Abstract # 2: on a motion by *Board Member, Elisabeth Albert* was approved for payment, seconded by *Board Member Linda Mirabelli*.

| | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|---|----|----|-----------|
| | 2023 General Fund Vouchers | # | 1 | - | 17 | \$ | 36,772.70 |
| | 2023 Highway Fund Vouchers | # | 1 | - | | \$ | 12,529.85 |
| <u>Approved</u> | 4 Aye | | (Ryan, Elisabeth, Kara, Linda) | | | | |
| | 0 Nays | | | | | | |
| | 1 Absent | | (Elizabeth) | | | | |

The following people commented during the fifteen minute public comment:

- ✦ **Arthur Griffith:** asked the Town Board to support a 10% property tax exemption to volunteer firefighters and volunteer ambulance workers.
- ✦ **Supervisor Ryan Skoda** recognized **Pete Beck** for his efforts in establishing the Taghkanic Community Fridge. Pete had his hand in the project from the start. He arranged to get the refrigerator and all the construction supplies. Pete built the entire structure. After construction was completed, Pete refined the finished product, including adding an easy to use handle to the fridge. Our now iconic fridge has Pete's handiwork all over it.

Executive Session:

7:55 pm Executive Session: **Board Member Linda Mirabelli** motioned to enter Executive Session to discuss Personnel seconded by **Board Member Elisabeth Albert**.

Approved **4 Aye** **(Ryan, Elisabeth, Kara, Linda)**
0 Nays
1 Absent **(Elizabeth)**

8:01 pm Executive Session: **Board Member Linda Mirabelli** motioned to exit Executive Session, seconded by **Board Member Elisabeth Albert**.

Approved **4 Aye** **(Ryan, Elisabeth, Kara, Linda)**
0 Nays
1 Absent **(Elizabeth)**

With no further business, on a motion by **Board Member Linda Mirabelli**, seconded by **Board Member Elisabeth Albert** the meeting was adjourned at **8:01 pm**, carried unanimously by all members present. The next Regular meeting will be **March 13, 2023** at the Taghkanic Town Hall.

Audience at Town Hall: Arthur Griffith Peter Beck Perry Ascher

Audience via Zoom: Joyce Thompson Larry Kadish Anna Kadish Steven Smollens
Celina Kagan